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## Clothing Drive Donation Guidelines

At Dress for Success Sydney our clothing donors are a vital part of our Styling team. Thank you for supporting us as we support our Clients to get that life-changing job and support the circular fashion economy to reduce textile waste across Australia.

Our core Styling service depends on impeccable donated workwear, shoes, and accessories so we can dress our Clients to nail that interview and thrive in their new role. We simply couldn't do what we do without your conscious regifting of clothing to ensure women across NSW have appropriate outfits for interviews, court appearances, life events, and once they land a job!

Please help us in our work by following our sustainability guidelines to reduce our environmental footprint and improve the social impact of our services across NSW.



### WE CAN ACCEPT

- Quality workwear; reputable modern brands.
- In season items.
- Occasion wear & luxury items.
- Knitwear, wovens, coats (in Autumn and Winter only).
- Designer and luxury brand names – on trend styles and classic pieces.
- High-quality costume and/or designer jewellery.
- Handbags and accessories in very good condition.
- Shoes – only new or near new.
- Quality clothes in sizes 16+.



### WE CANNOT ACCEPT

- Menswear, childrenswear, swimwear, homewares.
- Underwear, bras, undergarments.
- Cosmetics, perfume & sanitary items.
- High boots, unsupportive shoes/sandals, thongs.
- Discount or "fast fashion" brands.
- Items that are dirty, damaged, or in need of repairs.

The question to ask yourself to see if your donation is appropriate for either a professional job interview or workwear (corporate, smart casual environments and/or trades) is: *"Would I gift this to a good friend?"* It is critical for us to provide our Clients with clothing that reflects the dignity that they deserve.



We love tags still on and plus sizes! For our most up to date needs, visit [our website](#).

When it comes to items you plan to donate to us, it is important to do a check of the following:

- Test strength in zips, studs, labels, embellishments, and elastics.
- Must endure a 2nd lifetime of machine washes on a warm/cold cycle.
- We don't accept garments with colour-fade, pilling, uneven hems and lining, seam slippage, fraying, broken stitching, or missing accessories e.g. buttons.
- Please rewash before donating especially if you notice marks, stains, or smells.
- We do not accept garments that look old, tired, very outdated and well-worn to the naked eye.

### Corporate workwear

- Designer reputable brands
- Matching suits; jacket/skirt or jacket/pants
- Skirt styles in an appropriate length
- Pants three quarter and full length, that can be easily paired with a jacket
- Jackets – durable for daily wear
- Shirts; long and short sleeve
- Tops without collars that can be worn easily under jackets
- Trans-seasonal.

### Footwear & handbags

- Ankle boots, court shoes, dress heels, and trainers (unused or brand new only).
- Flat work appropriate shoes (e.g. Oxfords, Derbys, Brogues, etc).
- Wallets and work appropriate bags.
- Must not have an odour.
- Soles must be even from heel to toe and not worn-in or scuffed.
  
- Heels must not be higher than a court shoe (under 7.5cm high).
- Colour must be visibly even all over with no scuffs or marks.
- Press studs, straps, and buckles working.
- Comfort is a major factor.

### Accessories & jewellery

- Earrings must come in a pair and have matching backs; studs, hoops and costume jewellery that can be worn regularly is the most acceptable.
  - Work appropriate, on-trend pieces such as fine bracelets and necklaces.
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- Scarfs accepted.
- Please note: some plated jewellery contains nickel and copper, both of which commonly cause skin discoloration and cannot be accepted.

#### **Knitwear, wovens, casualwear**

- These items are perfect for our Style Delivered program and for women being released from Correctional Facilities. Please check items comply with our standards above and:
  - Check strength and fabric stretch for shape and dimensional stability
  - Reinforce weak areas liable to stress, such as elbows and knees in denim, cotton, silk and woolens

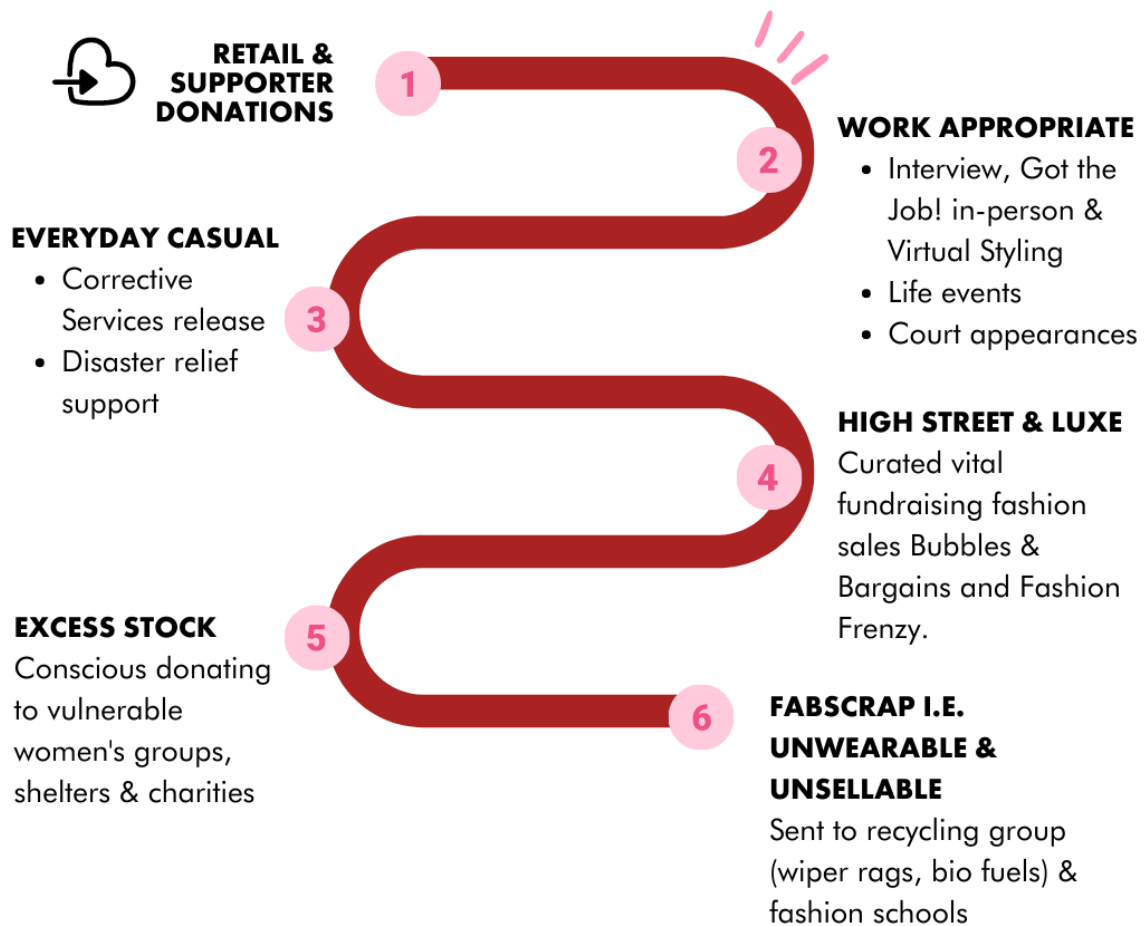
#### **Occasion wear & luxury items**

- We DO take quality high-end items!
- If not appropriate for work, these items may be provided to Clients who needs clothing for special occasions.
- If items cannot be used by our Clients, we sell unused stock at our signature pop-up fashion sales. These are important fundraisers for us with all proceeds directly supporting our operations and employability programs.

We abide by a Sustainable Donation model to recycle, reuse, and resell donations to avoid them ending up in landfill. Items that cannot be used by our Clients may end up in our fashion pop-up sales or be donated to deserving partner charities.



## Dress for Success Sydney Sustainable Donation Model





## **Clothing Drive Donation Guidelines**

Before you donate items please double check everything is:

- Workwear appropriate OR luxury / designer items.
- Clean and recently washed.
- In good condition.
- Not in need of repair.
- Shoes are new or as new, with intact soles.
- Items smell clean or odourless.
- On our [current list of needs](#).

If you have a large quantity of items please ensure they are:

- Boxed up with coat hangers (no wire hangers please!).
- Sorted into style (e.g. shirts together, suits together, dresses together).
- To ensure WH&S compliance, please ensure boxes are not larger than 450mm x 350 mm x 350 mm.

Please ensure that the following items are NOT included in your donation:

- Menswear – work appropriate menswear can be donated to Dress for Work in Bankstown (<https://dressforwork.org.au/>)
- Children’s wear – baby gear, children’s wear, toys, and nursery items can be donated to The Dandelion Network (<https://dandelionsupport.org.au/donate-goods/>)
- Swimwear, underwear, etc – bras in good or new condition can be donated to Support The Girls (<https://supportthegirls.com.au/donate-a-bra/>). Otherwise, textile recyclers Upparel (<https://upparel.com.au/>) will take discarded items including swimwear.
- Cosmetics, perfume & sanitary items – Share The Dignity (<https://www.sharethedignity.org.au/itsinthebag>) distributes sanitary items to women across Australia.



- High boots, unsupportive shoes/sandals, thongs – Tread Lightly (<https://treadlightly.asga.com.au/what-we-take/>) recycles old sneakers, school shoes, etc and has drop off locations across Australia. Totally Workwear (<https://www.totallyworkwear.com.au/tww-boot-recycling>) will take old work boots for recycling.
- Discount or “fast fashion” brands - textile recyclers Upparel (<https://upparel.com.au/>) will take discarded items and, if wearable and resaleable, this will be distributed through charitable organisations in a way that they can process it efficiently.
- Items that are dirty, damaged, or in need of repairs - textile recyclers Upparel (<https://upparel.com.au/>) will take discarded items to be recycled and turned into new textiles, or items that can be used in other industries, such as insulation and cleaning rags.
- Homewares, etc – Givit (<https://www.givit.org.au/donate-items>) can help you rehome anything inside and around a house – everything from cutlery to a washing machine to hardware tools can be rehomed through the platform. You can also donate school equipment, sporting goods, bigger items such as a shipping container, and much more!